AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An ignition coil comprising;

a housing;

a rod-shaped center core arranged substantially at the center within the housing;

a thermal stress relaxing member covering the outer circumferential surface of the center core;

a cylindrical spool arranged on the outer circumferential side of the thermal stress relaxing member with a gap ~~in between;~~ therebetween; and

a resin insulating material with which the gap is filled and which hardens and provides an electrical insulation between the center core and a coil wound around the cylindrical spool; wherein

the thermal stress relaxing member is wound around the center core; and

the thickness of the thermal stress relaxing member is set to a thickness so that the thermal stress, which is caused by the thermal deformation of the center core and is applied to the resin insulating material, is reduced and reaches a saturation value thereof.

2. (Original) An ignition coil, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the center core is a laminated core made up of magnetic plates stacked in the radial direction.

3. (Original) An ignition coil, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the thermal stress relaxing member has a linear expansion coefficient of 25×10^{-6} ° C or lower and the thickness thereof is set to 0.1 mm or greater.

4. (Original) An ignition coil, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the thermal stress relaxing member is made of poly ethylene terephthalate, polyester, glass fabrics, polyamide, fluororesin or vinyl chloride and the thickness of the thermal stress relaxing member is set to 0.1 mm or greater.

5. (New) An ignition coil, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the thermal stress relaxing member is provided to cover and contain an entire outer side surface of the center core.

6. (New) An ignition coil, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a second cylindrical spool arranged on the outer circumferential side of the coil wound around the first said cylindrical spool, and a second coil wound around the second cylindrical spool.

7. (New) An ignition coil, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cylindrical spool defines a secondary spool on which a secondary coil is wound and further comprising a primary spool arranged on the outer circumferential side of the secondary coil and a primary coil wound around an outer circumferential side of the primary spool.